

CONTACT: Don Rhodes, 213/236-1840

Jeff Lustgarten, 323/466-3445

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 2004**



NEW OFFICERS TAKE OVER AT SCAG'S 2004 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*** * ***

Temecula Councilmember Ron Roberts Installed as New President, with Imperial County Supervisor Hank Kuiper and Port Hueneme Mayor Toni Young Taking Over as First, Second Vice Presidents. John Greenwood Receives Hagman Regional Citizen Award

LOS ANGELES – At its 2004 General Assembly, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) announced the election of its new officers to lead the agency during the 2004-05 Session. Temecula City Councilmember Ron Roberts was formally installed as SCAG's new president, with Imperial County Supervisor Hank Kuiper being selected as first vice president and Port Hueneme Mayor Toni Young as second vice president. The new leadership team will serve in their positions until May 2005. The annual meeting was also highlighted by the ceremony recognizing the important regional accomplishments of local activist and Southern California Leadership trainer John Greenwood.

Councilman Roberts was first elected to the Temecula City Council in 1992, including three separate stints as mayor in 1994, 1998 and 2002. For SCAG, he has previously served as chair of the agency's Transportation and Communications Committee and Truck Lanes Task Force, as well as a member of its Maglev Task Force. He has also held leadership positions on numerous boards and commissions, including the Riverside County Transportation Commission; Western Riverside Council of Governments; Southern California Regional Railroad Authority; League of California Cities' Riverside Division Executive Committee; and National League of Cities' Transportation and Communications Committee.

"I am excited to be taking on this leadership position at such an important time for SCAG," said Councilmember Roberts. "From our efforts to help implement an unprecedented growth visioning initiative to the federal approval of our 2004 Regional Transportation Plan that will serve as the blueprint for Southern California's transportation future, SCAG has a number of important milestones in the coming year, and I look forward to the challenge of helping to guide the agency through those efforts."

Hank Kuiper is an Imperial County Supervisor where he has served since November 2000. In addition to his position as SCAG's First Vice President, Supervisor Kuiper also serves as Vice Chair of its Energy and Environment Committee (EEC). Prior to his election to the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, Kuiper served on the El Centro City Council from 1985 to 1997, including three terms as mayor. While on the El Centro City Council, Kuiper served as president of the Imperial County Division of the League of California Cities.

- more -

Toni Young was elected to the Port Hueneme City Council in 1992, and she first became mayor in 1999. In addition to the new position as Second Vice President, Mayor Young is also Chair of SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee and a member of its Water Task Force. Her experience in Port Hueneme includes serving as a charter board member of the Port Hueneme Water Agency and member of the South Coast Area Transit Board. Mayor Young is also a member of the League of California Cities' Public Safety Policy Committee at the National League of Cities. Young also has served the community in other capacities, including as an alternate board member to the Ventura County Association of Water Agencies and as president of the Channel Counties Division of the League of California Cities in 1997.

In addition to the selection of new officers, the General Assembly was marked by the presentation of the Donald G. Hagman Award to John Greenwood, acknowledging his many accomplishments as an active regional citizen. John is a senior trainer with Leadership Southern California, a grassroots regional education program designed to provide upcoming officials with important leadership tools. Mr. Greenwood has also served as Executive Director and Director of Training for Coro Southern California, and he designed a similar program called the Ventura County Leadership Academy. He also served as an elected member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, and he was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn to serve as President of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council.

General Assembly delegates were also treated to remarks by State Assemblymember Keith Richman, who discussed the importance of investing in the state's infrastructure and the importance of political collaboration in addressing serious policy challenges.

"It is critical that the state implement a process whereby we make a strong commitment to investing in our state's infrastructure. The long-term prosperity of our state is reliant upon making these critical investments," said Assemblyman Richman. "Whether it be the State Legislature or regional bodies like SCAG, we must find ways to set ideological or partisan differences aside and work together to find common solutions to the challenges we face in Southern California and across the state."

Throughout the past three decades, SCAG has evolved into the nation's largest regional planning organization, functioning as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for six counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura. The Southern California region encompasses a population exceeding 16 million persons in an area of more than 38,000 square miles. As the designated MPO, SCAG is mandated by the federal government to research and develop plans for transportation, growth management, hazardous waste management, and air quality. For more information about the work of the Southern California Association of Governments, please visit the SCAG website at www.scag.ca.gov.